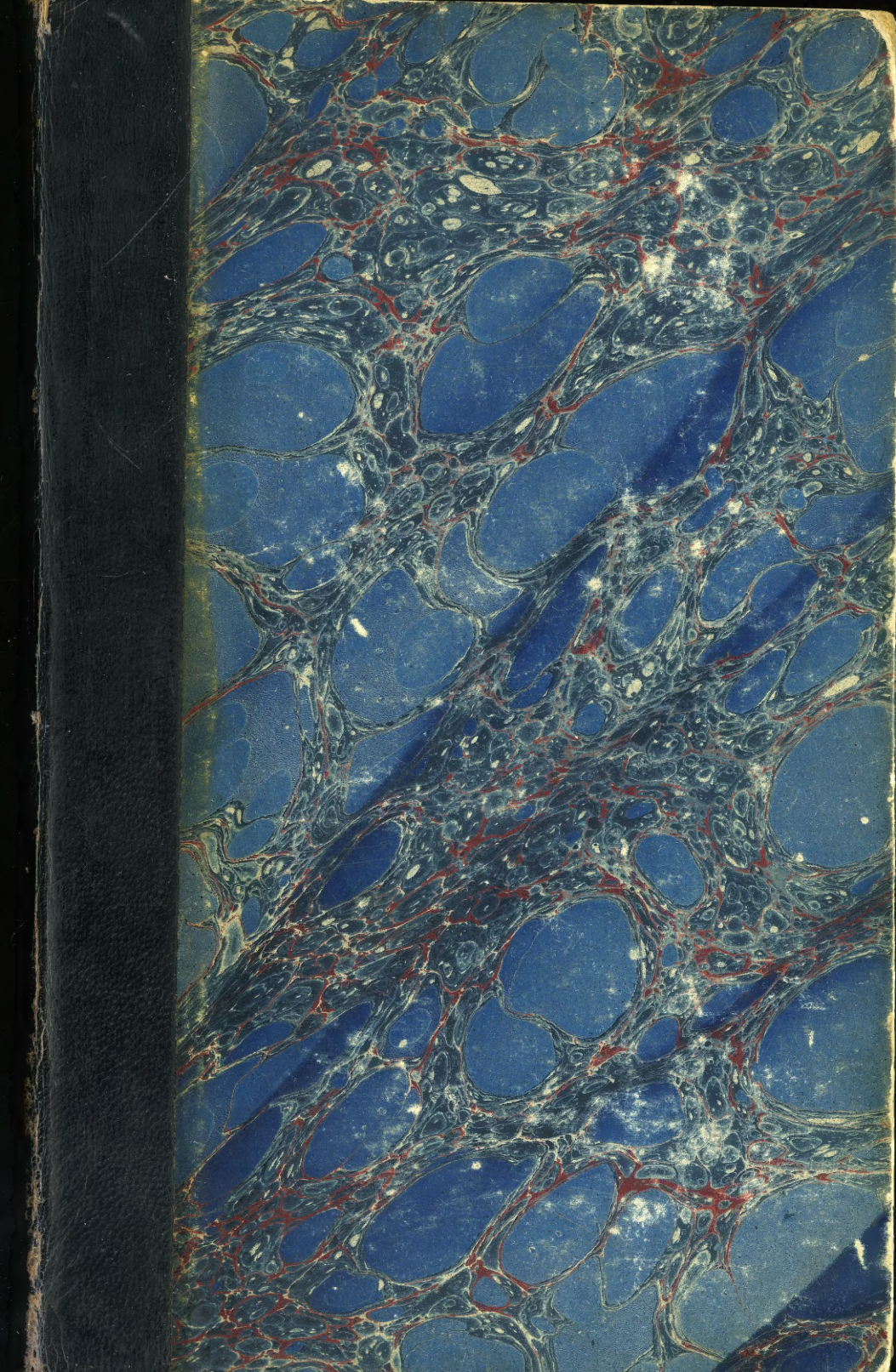

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Author's (?) correction p. XIV.

LETTERS,

ON A

DISPUTED CLAIM,

TO

JOHN MYTTON, ESQUIRE,

OF HALSTON, OSWESTRY, SALOP,

LATE OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT OF HUSSARS,
LATE A MEMBER FOR SHREWSBURY,
AND NOW HIGH SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY.

BY J. EASTER, . .

H. P. LATE OF THE TWENTY-THIRD LIGHT DRAGOONS.

London:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR, WALKER'S HOTEL,
DEAN STREET, SOHO.

1823.

PRICE EIGHTEEN-PENCE.

NOTICE.

I RECEIVED a menace from Mr. Edward O'Reilly, of No. 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, to the effect, that if I had mentioned his name in my letters to Mr. Mytton, I might expect some ruffianly violence from the huge wight. This was my reply:

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
15th July, 1823.

"You accosted me three days since in the street, and endeavoured to exhibit something awful, by throwing into the expression of your large face, which gleams like a beacon on a tower of flesh, all the bullying braggadocio of which you are capable. Your great words are ridiculous and suited only to the hugeness of your body. I am not so great a fool as to cast ridicule on chivalry by speaking to you, OF ALL MEN IN THE WORLD, of pistols. I have infinitely too great a reverence for Manton, and the memory of that ingenious monk who invented gunpowder—I would disgrace the art

of neither. You asserted that your name was mentioned in the letters I have written to Mr. Mytton—It is false! Now, you who bullied so bravely in the street, the other day, embodying, as it were, three striking points of Shakespear—Falstaff's bulk—Bardolph's face—and Pistol's bombastic gasconade; you, who met me then unprepared, and had no cause to bully or blackguard me; you who are six feet three, do, you, tell me, who am five feet six, at what point of the town to meet you, and your Herculean terrors, and then dare to put your hand on me, or offer an affront to me, and see if I will be backward to repel your ruffianly audacity, Mr. Pyrgopolinices O'Reilly. This letter shall be published with the statement prefixed to my letters to Mr. Mytton, to shew you, and him, and every other person, whom you may think of consequence, how little I care for them—how cheap I hold them—and, moreover, that I dare them, or you, and all of you, to do the worst you can, by any means within your power, Mr. Teddy O'Reilly, as you are familiarly called.

"J. EASTER."

PREFACE.

SOME persons bestow attention on transactions of such a nature as those, which have occasioned the following letters to Mr. Mytton; it is for the information of such persons that I have published them.

Hitherto my claim on Mr. Mytton has suffered INFERENTIALLY from partial statements. Every body knows the prejudicial influence of HALF THE TRUTH. I have here to tell the WHOLE of it; and I challenge Mr. Mytton to point out a solitary fact, exaggerated, misstated, or, in any wise, disguised.

If what I state be true, let Mr. Mytton's friends look to the future; my case of to-day, to-morrow may be theirs. It is due to Mr.

Mytton's dignity to say, that saving to the first of these addresses to him, he has given no reply; and, consequently, the only pleas I thought he could advance, I have anticipated in the subsequent appeals to his fastidious silence: his taciturnity is highly dignified, no doubt; and possibly, as rational as it is grand: if he could justify his conduct, he would speak: but obstinate persistence has no argument, and it were stupid stubbornness indeed to say, "I wont because I wont."—His silence is judicious.

For my own part, I abjure all casuistry, and appeal to facts alone. I take the statement following from a letter herein after published. *Vide*, letter 3, to Mr. Mytton.

"We played at billiards on SEVEN DISTINCTLY SEPARATE OCCASIONS. Our first contest terminated without advantage on either side. On the second, I won from you TWO Napoleons, which you paid me. On the third, I won from you SEVEN Napoleons, which I received. Fourthly, I won 45 Napoleons, WHICH YOU DID

NOT PAY ME. Fifthly, I won 100 Napoleons. Sixthly, I won 1400 Napoleons; and lastly, 10515 Napoleons. Neither of these three last sums were paid. On the termination of our play, I was a claimant of 12060 Napoleons. Subsequently, in backing the play of Mr. Hodshon against YOUR OWN, I won from you additionally 4660 Napoleons. On the 22nd of November, I won from you 200 Napoleons, at rouge et noir and at tossing up. The aggregate amount of your debt to me is, consequently, 16920 Napoleons. There is one remark which I must urge especially on mine, and Mr. Mytton's friends. The sum of money I have gained from Mr. Mytton was won in public, before gentlemen unknown to me, at least for any length of time, and all of them acquaintances of casual introduction. I moreover must remark, and beg it may be duly noticed, that whenever play took place, it uniformly emanated from the proposal of Mr. Mytton, who always named the stakes; and offered upon one

occasion a wager much too great to be received, and which, as chance determined, had I taken it, would have terminated in my favor.[1] I was introduced to Mr. Mytton by Mr. Wheatley, between whom there subsisted the appearance of particular intimacy. On one occasion of our play, Mr. Mytton asked me to give odds, to which (though I conceived our terms of contest pretty equal) I assented. I told Mr. Mytton, if I beat him giving him two, that I was willing afterwards to give him more. But Mr. Mytton hastily rejected any odds, declaring he would beat me even, if at all. I have detailed the items of my gains from Mr. Mytton; it remains for me to say, that all our contests were decided in the presence of such individuals, as chose to witness them; in a common, public, billiard-room, accessible to every one: among others, who were incidental spectators of our play, were Captain M'Dermott, since dead; Mr. Morse, of the Ordnance Department; Mr. Hodshon, of Durham, receiver ge-

neral (as I believe) of a division of that county; Lieutenant Dwyer, of the Royal Navy; Mr. Williams, of the Customs; Mr. Wheatley, Mr. Mytton's intimate companion; Mr. Burgh, of the Pipe Office, since dead; Mr. Isaac, a resident at Calais; Lieutenant Bryan, of the British Army; Mr. Ferguson, of the Bays; Mr. Morley and Mr. Cadogan, two Mercantile gentlemen, resident at Calais; as well as many other gentlemen, whom I cannot recal, at this immediate writing, to my recollection. It is obvious to any one of common understanding that in so public a situation, before so many men either totally unknown to me, or at best but indifferently acquainted with me, I could not have continued to exhibit a palpable advantage over Mr. Mytton's play (while playing for such weighty stakes) without incurring the remarks of some judicious and disinterested looker-on. But, at the time of Mr. Mytton's loss to me, not even the remotest innuendo was thrown out that he had suffered by too great

disparity of skill; and why it should have struck Mr. Hodshon, to propose a question on the point to Mr. Mytton (which he did in presence of Mr. Wheatley, Mr. Farrer and Mr. Laing, of the 18th) "whether he considered any thing UNFAIR?" I cannot possibly surmise. That question in its issue was distinctly beneficial. For Mr. Mytton's answer was unhesitatingly given in the negative: and so, THAT point was set at rest. Mr. Mytton gave me an acknowledgment for 16,920 Napoleons, observing at the same time, though THEN he could not, that he SOON should have the power to pay me; and, that his loss would only render it incumbent on him to reduce his income from eleven to ten thousand pounds per annum.

No sooner had Mr. Mytton left Calais, than I learned from Mr. Wheatley that some "noise" was apprehended owing to our play transactions, as the 7th regiment of Hussars expressly deprecated such proceedings. Mr. Wheatley furthermore insinuated, that the circumstance might

injure ME. In what manner, as I told him then, and as I still tell the world, nor could nor can I possibly divine.—It seemed to me, from the very first, that Mr. Wheatley's conversations had but one especial point; to effect the restitution of Mr. Mytton's acknowledgment of what he lost at play. Mr. Wheatley urged this great desideratum by very cogent arguments: he stated, in the first place, his conviction that the Prince Regent would "put his pen across the names" of any army men who played so deeply.—Mr. Wheatley next proceeded to expatiate on the private prospects by which Mr. Mytton was at that time animated: and his reasoning on this point, I profess, was that which most affected my determination. I trust I shall be accredited for delicacy in adverting, BRIEFLY, to this particular.—Mr. Wheatley therefore urged the restitution of the paper given me by Mr. Mytton, saying, "though every thing has been fairly and indisputably won, consider Mr. Mytton's situation as an

officer; have some respect to his matrimonial hopes, and forbear at present to molest him by suspending over him a cause of such solicitude. I strongly recommend you as a friend to follow my advice—you never can repent it; when Mr. Mytton comes of age you will congratulate yourself on having followed my opinion, and the world will be impressed with the generosity of your conduct in restoring him the document you have." Such also were the sentiments of Mr. Hodshon, a gentleman advanced in life, and fully competent, as I conceived, to give sound counsel on affairs of such a character. Mr. Wheatley RESUMED his argument, by saying, that unless we followed the advice which then was offered to us, a Court Martial would ensue; that by returning the acknowledgment to Mr. Mytton, we could prevent that occurrence, and that we never should have reason to regret, when Mr. Mytton came of age, an act of so much intermediate benefit. I gave my assent to Mr.

Wheatley's proposal, and requested him to make such arrangements as would save both Mr. Mytton and myself from any military implication.—I resigned to Mr. Wheatley the METHOD of so doing, and have since ('tis true) regretted my compliance with his wishes; but what man of common feeling could have been insensible to the serious probabilities displayed by him, and what man of common modesty could have postponed the counsel of respectable, experienced, disinterested gentlemen, to his own individual opinion, which was likely to be governed by inherent prepossession or the tenacity of right or delicacy, as they respected propriety and honor? Mr. Mytton received the absolutory paper he so much desired, but surprised me by not noticing its receipt: I expressed my astonishment to Mr. Wheatley, and said, it was the opinion of Lord Henry Moore and Mr. Brummell, whom I had been recently dining with, that I should write to Mr. Mytton on the subject. Mr.

Wheatley augmented my surprise, by saying that "my writing was useless, as he was confident I should have no anwer without the sanction of the officers." Here Mr. Wheatley, for the first time, seemed disposed to some reserve in his communications on the point of Mr. Mytton's conduct: he had NOW achieved the purpose which he laboured with such cogency of argument, and NOW he feared the INTRODUCTION OF HIS NAME into concerns, wherein he hitherto had mingled as a VOLUNTEERING MUTUAL FRIEND. I must confess, when Mr. Wheatley spoke about the "sanction of the officers," this tardy, yet abrupt disclosure, reflected on his former interest in my dilemma, a complexion that did not exhibit the most perfect picture of ingenuous friendship.—However, I was thoroughly convinced of Mr. Mytton's honorable intentions; I met him afterwards, precisely on the same friendly terms as formerly, and when he came of age, I wrote to Mr. Mytton the following letter, October, 1817.

"*Poste Restante à Calais,*
October 4th, 1817.

"Dear Mytton,

"The time of your coming of age, I am informed is arrived; and as I have equally in deference to the restricted nature of your situation during your minority, and in reliance upon your honor, when it should have ceased, forborne to trouble you with any previous application, you will, I trust, forgive my now taking the liberty to remind you of what took place between us at this place in November last, I will at the same time, beg you not to interpret my present reference to those transactions, to any indelicate intention of abruptly importuning you in the early days of your entering upon your fortune, or to the remotest wish that you should expose yourself to any immediate inconvenience on my account; such is very far from my object; but, as nearly a year has elapsed since the circumstances to which I revert, without my receiving any communication from you upon that subject, either

by letter, or personally, though we have met: were I to impose a more prolonged silence upon myself, it might perhaps encourage the supposition that I had relinquished my claims upon you, and would certainly indicate a dishonorable indifference to my own character: for my relinquishment of those existing claims, could be considered as no less than a passive acknowledgment of their unfairness, and would, consequently, furnish a plausible argument for the belief of those calumnies which have already been so industriously and undeservedly circulated against me. My situation has been peculiarly difficult, as well as painful, for I have heard vague reports, whispered to my disadvantage, as regarding the transactions between us, without being enabled to crush them, by tracing their authority to any particular individual; and therefore have been compelled patiently to bear the reflection they convey, till such period as your accession to your property would justify my appealing to you upon the

subject of my claims, the eventual settlement of which is the only means of satisfying my honor, and of repelling those injurious prejudices that have attempted to traduce it. I am persuaded you will therefore see the necessity of my addressing myself to you, and that you will have the friendly candour to attribute the haste and anxiety which this intrusion may betray, to the natural impatience of asserting that character which has been falsely defamed, and not to any other interested motive. In the conviction then of your willingness to render me justice, I shall expect an early answer from you.

"I am, dear Mytton,

"Yours, truly,

"J. EASTER,

"Lt. 23 Lt. Drs. h. p.

"To John Mytton, Esq.

"late of the Hussars."

On Monday morning, 10th November, 1817, I received the following letter, without date of time or place.

"Sir,

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your's; in answer to which I can only say, that I shall abide by the determination the Officers of the 7th, to which I had the honor of belonging, came to, viz. that I was not at all called upon to pay the money you claim, and moreover, shall not forget the promise I made them, never to pay it. I consider my character safe in their hands, and feel myself fully justified by their opinion of my conduct. The whole case, from beginning to the end of this letter, is referred to them—I write a copy of this letter to Col. Sir Edward Kerrison to night, for their perusal.

"I have the honor to be, sir,

"Your obedient humble servant,

"JOHN MYTTON,

"Late 7th Q. O. Hussars.

"J. Easter, Esq.

"&c. &c. &c."

I have observed, in the first letter hereinafter published, that the domestic circumstances of Mr. Mytton had influenced my silence. While delicacy forbad me to press the claims, which I assert, I was patient, though in no wise doubtful of the line of conduct suited to my situation. I have endeavoured by the letters, here submitted to the curiosity of those, who deign attention to such things, to learn on what substantial ground the claim, which I set forth on Mr. Mytton, is disputed by that gentleman. In so doing, I perform one duty to myself, another to that portion of the world, whose sporting pleasures might subject them to the shuffling wiles of such evasive gentlemen. It is true the law protects them; and so it does the base, the infamous informer. I would not attempt TO EULOGIZE THE VICE OF GAMING; but no meaner scoundrel can be found on earth, than he, who tacitly admitting all its rules, first profligately runs his risk of gain—then treacherously seeks the reparation of his

losses, by those expedients which the laws extend to baffled avarice and compromising villany.—Such knaves should meet the sneer of scorn wherever they appear. No wretch who writhes beneath the hangman's scourge, is more deserving of its application, than the skulking caitiff who repairs a breach of common law by violating that of common honor.—The world may be surprised to learn, that in the very slaves of such abhorred and groveling worthlessness, the contrarieties of meanest vice appear—in them are found a combination of the accuser and delinquent; of the would-be saint and the substantial sinner; of the convivial guest and the insidious betrayer; the hospitable host and wary robber.

There is one man in the kingdom who upholds religion, and scoffs the VANITIES OF HONOUR; he holds them but as meretricious affectations, needless to the man of solid piety, and useless, but as themes of speculative subtlety. His claims to worth are laid in the

profundity of truth and reason: like those, whose works are done "for to be seen of men; WHO make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, and love the uppermost rooms of feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the market, and to be called of men." If a man of such pretensions could be found, like Judas in his treason, but more successfully persuasive as to proselytes; could such a man be found to have abused the generous confidence of youthful friendship, to have turned the hall of hospitality into "a den of thieves," sacreligiously purloining, in the guise of holiness, the very "treasure of the temple," what could be avouched too bad for such a Sadducee, who cast above his cold and darkling spirit the superficial glare of Pharasaical hypocrisy?

Let this be answered from the NORTH.

LETTERS

TO

JOHN MYTTON, ESQUIRE,

Of Halston, near Oswestry,

IN THE COUNTY OF SALOP,

LATE OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT OF HUSSARS;
LATE A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SHREWSBURY, AND NOW
HIGH SHERIFF FOR THE COUNTY.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
London, 13*th of March,* 1823.

"SIR,

"ALMOST five years have elapsed since I last addressed you on the subject of the sum you owe me. The silence, which for this interval I have observed, has been governed by circumstances of a nature, which you may possibly surmise, if you advert to the order of your domestic events. Situated as you now are, no feeling of my delicacy can be appealed to, and therefore further forbearance, on my part, might incur the construction of a relinquished claim. That I am thoroughly impressed with an as-

surance that my pretensions are supported by honor, and by justice, the firmness of my ulterior conduct will attest. You will find that although I am determined, I unite with the result of my deliberation, a spirit of moderation and rationality. I shall therefore not expect a total liquidation, of absolute immediacy. But I am desirous of learning your intention, or of receiving your proposals on the subject. I think fit to anticipate your resumption of a former argument, by expressly asserting, that I disclaim the authority of any decision of an ex-parte nature, and that I attach too just a value to PERSONAL RIGHT, to admit the interference of any man, or body of men, in my concerns; to which it is impossible that they can become parties, without the express concurrence of my wishes with your own, for that especial purpose. I beg to hear from you on this point.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"J. EASTER.

"To John Mytton, Esq."

The answer from John Mytton, Esq.

" *Dated 22nd March,* 1823.

" Sir,

" Much to my surprise I see, by your letter to me of the 13th inst. a renewal of the subject which I considered for years at rest. In reply to your letter I have to state, that the opinions of men of the highest honor and integrity formed the basis of my resolution on the subject, in the first instance of your appeal to me, and by those opinions I determine to abide.

" I am, sir, &c. &c.

" JOHN MYTTON.

" J. Easter. Esq."

Second letter to John Mytton, Esq.

" *Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
26th March, 1823.

" Sir,

" Your letter has not surprised me. The experience I have had of your character prepared me for the pitiful subterfuge, which lies

before me. I find it necessary to be explicit with you; and the first point, on which I deem it requisite to be intelligible, is this:—whatever I may advance in the freedom of truth, is designed to move your justice and your shame. I disclaim all intention of provoking your courage or your chivalry.—This preface will preclude the necessity of your making application to the civil power; and the future tenor of my communications to you, will enable you to consult the liberal opinion of such friends, as, having constituted themselves judicial on matters, of which it appears they are either altogether unapprehensive, or totally ignorant, will continue to give you the only advice which you approve, because it is the only advice which can protect your meanness and indemnify your profligacy. I might be led by the base effrontery, with which you allude to the charity of my patient silence, to violate the decency of domestic feeling, with as little respect for its sacred character, as you have manifested: but any retaliation, which prescribed to me the reciprocity of your conduct, I should feel as a disgrace. I therefore shall confine myself to that plain,

direct and unequivocal method of procedure, which is best calculated to annihilate the absurd pretensions you advance in defence of your dishonorable scruples; and I shall thereby make it palpable to the world, that you are equally destitute of principle and of intelligence. I conceive that I have far more solid grounds, whereon to found a claim, than you can have, whereon to build pretexts of its denial; and perhaps I am not too deferent in my opinion of the strength of integrity, if I imagine that the cause of justice may withstand the union of those high qualities and talented embellishments, which placed, though they did not retain you, in the Parliament of your country. I am sorry to surmise, that the recommendations which have acquired you the honor of the high shrievalty of Salop, are either of extremely recent growth, or of so superficial a desert, as to ensure you the ulterior disapprobation of too indulgent and confiding a credulity. I confess that though the study is peculiarly barren, I have devoted, and am still devoting, some attention to your character and conduct; and though I find in it little that could shock a scoundrel, and cer-

tainly nothing that could dignify a GENTLEMAN, I discover in it quite sufficient of those errant littlenesses which compound a whole, obnoxious to the candor of men of honor, and pernicious to the safety of society at large. Ere I proceed to the ample discussion of your conduct, which shall be as public as it deserves, and as, doubtless, you desire it should be; I ask the reasons of your dismissing the claim, which I assert. On the receipt of your reply, which I expect to be immediate, I shall proceed in that manner which I think most effectually conducive to my objects. I remark that I shall never cease to support my claim, until I have learned to feel the same cordial contempt for myself, which your evasion has taught me to entertain of you.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"J. EASTER.

"To John Mytton, Esq."

Third Letter to John Mytton, Esq.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
11th April, 1823.

"Sir,

"A fortnight has now elapsed since I last wrote to you. Your silence would have suprised me, had I expected, on the commencement of our correspondence, either the politeness of a gentleman, or the accuracy of a man accustomed to affairs of gravity. As it is, though I am equally indifferent to your indecorum and frivolity, I deem it advisable to refresh your remembrance so perspicuously with the details of our transaction, in the year 1816, that you shall not avail yourself of the excuses to be derived from misapprehension or forgetfulness. We played at billiards ON SEVEN DISTINCTLY SEPARATE OCCASIONS. Our first contest terminated without advantage on either side. On the second, I won from you two Napoleons, which you paid me; on the third, I won from you seven Napoleons, which I received. Fourthly, I won 45 Napoleons, WHICH

YOU DID NOT PAY ME: fifthly, I won 100 Napoleons: sixthly, I won 1400 Napoleons: and lastly, 10515 Napoleons: neither of these three last sums were paid. On the termination of our play, I was a claimant of 12060 Napoleons. Subsequently, in backing the play of Mr. Hodshon against YOUR OWN, I won from you additionally 4660 Napoleons; and on the 22d of November, I won from you 200 Napoleons, at rouge et noir, and at tossing up. The aggregate amount of your debt to me is, consequently, 16920 Napoleons. I am fully prepared to hear, on making claim of such a sum, that its magnitude alone is quite sufficient to render it ridiculous. This, I am persuaded, will be one, and possibly the best, evasion, that can be essayed, of what is just and honorable. I am not disposed to tolerate the prompt assumptions of impertinent improbity, nor to hop from the fantastic premises, to the still more infamous conclusions, which have been the Alpha and Omega of your contemptible expediency. No; as I have said, an honest claim may be plausibly evaded, and the practice of that art may have conferred on you a successful speciality in its

application; but, still evasion cannot possibly assume the character of defence; for, as soon as the confusion, which artifice excites, has been removed, the case remains for the inspection of the world in all its pure and singular simplicity. The magnitude of your loss is by no means an extenuation of the dishonor which you are content to receive in consideration of the money you withhold. The only inference to be deduced from your demeanor, is that at first you were perplexed by an alternative, which could have imposed no possible embarrassment on any honorable man; and that conclusively you preferred retaining the money which you lost, to the possession of the good opinion you have forfeited, and spurned on the very basest computation of equivalence. With what crouching imbecility would you fly to any precedent of worthless perfidy, if any could be found among the ranks of affluence and dignity! Look to the conduct of that sphere; look to the striking contrast which it forms to that, which you have held: compare the honorable resignation of such persons, in their losses, to the despicable,

compromising, gross dishonor, which distinguish and belong to you, and your disgraceful casuistry. But in the character of your especial meanness I discover an associate quality of very extraordinary union—I mean the insolent effrontery, with which you brave the wages of your worthlessness, and venture still on unprotected sporting pleasures, in which you have committed the very meanest treason to society, that law has NOT the power to denounce. I I have slightly touched on this topic, as being introductory to the diffuse absurdities which I anticipate in the defence of your proceedings. I pledge myself to you, that not one solitary point of your behaviour, past or future, shall escape the scrutiny it deserves, and which, if conscious of its fitness, you should solicit to transactions, which the world have deemed to your discredit. If on the plea of fallibility of judgment, your advising friends should wish to found excuses for the present case, I shall endeavour, by a test more general, by other instauces as flagrant in yonr moral and domestic character, to let them know, that you are not

immaculate, and that in aiding the purposes of roguery, they must prepare to bear an ample portion of its shame.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"J. EASTER.

"To John Mytton, Esq."

Fourth Letter to John Mytton, Esq.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*

"*23d April*, 1823.

"Sir,

"Any further comment on your silence were redundant—I am happy to observe, that there are points, on which you can be consistent; and although that virtue is bestowed, on this occasion, on the rudest of determinations, so much do I regard consistency, that I profess my admiration of your uniform ill breeding. I can, in no manner so thoroughly convince you of my respect for pertinacious adherence to adopted purposes, as by the strenuous perseverance, with which I shall pursue my own. I feel the more disposed to eulogize this virtue

in you, as it is rather the effect of reformation than the shewing of an innate feeling. You were more capricious, when in France; but you then could shadow the obliquities of stunted intellect and natural depravity, beneath those artful assumptions of juvenile frivolity, which, instead of leaving you, at the approach of seriousness and decency, have accompanied the other growing graces of your boyhood to the season of maturity, and now presents itself as the perfection of stubborn and incorrigible foolery. Your character is a compound, in which you have chosen to admit the semblance of imbecility, that you might the more effectually brandish the sterling vice it is designed to hide. Part of the imbecility is natural, and part factitious; but they are amenable to test; and I shall prosecute my scrutiny, be sure, with every nicety deserved by so important an analysis. You have brought apophthegm and prejudice (contemptibly and uselessly indeed) to aid you in resisting fair and honorable claims. You have fought against the vice, which you adore, by siding with the odium which morality and reason cast on it: you have feigned re-

pentance and abjuration, in the hope that the over hasty zeal of your reclaimers would absolve you from the obligations of your profligacy; and that mind of yours, so bent on most occasions to the homeliness of worldly reason, could in the meanness of a low expediency, affect a luminous enlargement of its faculties, and fancy in the assumptions of base advice the full authority of absolution. But I reserve the topic of your gaming for a future letter. I will look on this occasion, at the other portions of your character, that you may see, if gaming were a solitary interloper in the crowd of your exalted qualities, or whether it were cherished in your heart by predilection and attachment, and retained there in congeniality with the fetid vices of your innate debasement. Advert to the scene and circumstances of your first attachment, when in France: let it be supposed (if such hypothesis be not absurd) that you were then imbued with the affections that belong to such a time of life; let it be supposed, that your protestations were delivered in the spirit of ingenuous devotion; that your heart was thoroughly impelled by warmth, not guided by the wary stratagems of calculating

villany: let it be assumed, that you were sensible of what was due to virtuous confidence, that education had impressed on your conviction the sacred law of hospitality: let it be, in short, supposed that with common feeling, you had common sense: and then let it be asked, if knowing what was right, you ever felt correctly; and if you ever felt so, did you act in acquiescence with your feeling? Did you manifest a man impressed with principle, and animated by affection, cheered by virtuous hope, and ruled by honor? Or did you evince a trickster, who profaned each feeling he professed, abused each opportunity afforded him, and basely preferring the inglorious notoriety of a seductive exploit to the pure prevalence of honorable efforts, concluded a career of infamous chicanery, less despicable only than the laughable absurdity that covered its condign defeat? Answer, if you will, these interrogatories. I have others to propose. Refer the exculpation of your conduct, as you will, to the select committee of your friends; and believe me, that as your individual excellence has attracted but a certain portion of my scrutiny, I shall be happy

to bestow the residue on such of your co-operating friends, as form your counsel and participate your virtues.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"J. EASTER.

"To John Mytton, Esq."

Fifth Letter to John Mytton, Esq.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
29th April, 1823.

"Sir,

"When I proposed to myself the discussion of your amiable character, I hardly could have hoped to find my subject so prolific. The topics it presents are like the hydra's heads—if readily dispatched—as quickly substituted. I shall adopt, in your case, the doctrine of the fable, by calling in the aid of public cautery. I am certain the probation I have given you, will open wounds, which general sentiment must brand, though individual charity may visit them with mixed compassion and contempt. You have stated (not UNFREQUENTLY) that when you played with me at billiards, you

were but just initiated in the knowledge of the game: if that were true, it could not possibly avail you on the point of our dispute; but the fact was otherwise, and I advert to it not to deprive you of an argument so eminently despicable, but to shew that you were independent of veracity, when truth was troublesome to your insidious plans. During the very season of YOUR BOYHOOD, you threw out all the blossoms of prodigality, which have since been fostered by a kindly soil into exuberant maturity. What billiard room at Chester, what billiard room within the compass of your errantry, that has not witnessed the early earnest of your gaming disposition? What society, in which you entered as a boy, that has not been shocked by the premature developements of your propensity to play? Do you remember when you lost a sum of money at the game of hazard to your present friend? The scene was the Piazza Coffee House. Do you remember the associate of your friend, on that occasion? Do you call to mind, that even then you practised every art that an evasive mind could ply, to rid yourself of obligations

should have thought that the transcendent mind which qualified you for the TURF, the GAMING HOUSE, the SENATE and the COCK PIT, would have shewn you that such arts could not elude the observation of mankind: and that though, in the circles which have tolerated your deficiencies, the sneer of reprobation has been softened to the smile of pity, you must expect among the persons whom you mix with in the world a more efficient designation of the vices which you attempt to shroud by the proverbial absurdities of your character. No, believe me, sir, though I am far from thinking you possess one solitary quality commanding either admiration or respect; I never can allow you to disclaim those gifts of homely instinct, which secure to you the objects of your greedy nature; and unwilling as I am to impute to you either genius or ability, I cannot bring myself to think, that in the midst of your improvidence, while you meditated harm to others, you ever once forgot the idol of the base, and the rapacious——self.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"To John Mytton, Esq." "J. EASTER."

Sixth Letter to John Mytton, Esq.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
13*th May*, 1323.

"Sir,

"In a former letter, I detailed the dates and method of my winnings from you. I will now review your letters on the subject of my claim, set forth in the year 1818. It was your pleasure then to darken the examination, which the public might bestow on our transactions; it is mine at present to enlighten it. You acted with the adroitness still perceptible in your refined deceptions. I must acknowledge that never was a masterpiece of studious guile accomplished with an air of more disguising nonchalance: you certainly employed the language and the bearing of ingenuousness with skill: "The candid mantle of specious truth" concealed the dark designs behind it.

I shall take the freedom to remove the veil, and though the generous sentiment of resignation to tribunals of integrity may perhaps be cited as the tenor of your terms, on that occasion; I can make it too apparent that you

used a language foreign to your spirit, like the devil's scriptural quotation—for the purpose. The letter to which I purpose herein to allude, was that wherein you cite my words referring to the estimable character of the 7th Regiment of Hussars. I felt that I was bound, in candor, to comply with the unanimous opinion entertained of that distinguished military body. I here repeat that sentiment. Hence perhaps, you will urge again as an indisputable consequence, that I am thereby morally precluded from the maintenance of my pretensions to the debt you owe me. I will state the case. You lost to me a sum of money. You raised a question on the payment of your loss, and made a statement to your regiment. I KNOW NOT WHAT THAT STATEMENT ACTUALLY WAS; but what is infinitely more important, I KNOW NOT HOW THAT STATEMENT WAS ADORNED BY MANNER, ILLUSTRATION, OR GRATUITOUS REMARKS. I was treated, as I learned from whispers, (all unfathered, or at least of most indefinite origination,) with the amplest delicacy at the hands of those, to whom you had related your affair. Now here was most distinctly the very worst,

the most objectionable, situation, in which the power or hope of enmity could place my claim. It was brought by your EX PARTE STATEMENT to the judgment of your military friends, who, had they thought you capable of falsity, would certainly have never deigned to entertain your cause. Your single dictum, therefore, bore conviction to them. They thought you at that moment HONORABLE, MORAL, and superior to a base impression. I can prove by prior, by contemporaneous, facts, that you were not: yet on the strength of their belief, your character sufficed to give validity to all that you deposed. I stood apparently an object of compassionate forbearance, prejudged by inference, and overwhelmed by DELICACY. But what did I require of DELICACY? I spurned the supposition, I wished for only that, which all just men should wish for—Justice. I sought the reason, why you paid me not the money you had lost? The answer was involved in DELICACY; whereas I sought an answer of explicit truth. I felt oppressed (as really I was) by such fantastic offerings of plausible benignity. I sought, by the decided boldless of my just demand, some tan-

gible objection to my claim; some individual reason from an individual person, why I should forego the right I urged; no general concurrence of associated men—honorable doubtless, and doubtless too, as fallible. Why was I to enter on discussions with a BODY, on the subject of a PERSONAL PRETENCE? The only question to be asked was this—Were you obliged by honor, to discharge a debt you had incurred at play? Suppose the answer had been 'No'; the question then begotten would be—'Why'? I stood in need of nothing like the silence of the world. On such occasions I despise the affectation of its charity: well knowing that insidious enmity takes refuge in the NAME and spreads a lying accusation, by the shrugs and winks that intimate with treacherous duplicity, the perjurious evidence the tongue is fearful to aver. You were fortunate, no doubt, in operating on the unsuspicious temper of the persons, to whom you FRAMED a statement, as the point, of their adjudication. I can fancy the agreeable security you felt, in having roused the virtuous prepossessions and the hasty zeal of honorable men, by your concerted story; and,

though their most deliberate opinion could, in no wise, influence my apprehension of my right, I shall exhibit in my next, how utterly incompetent any set of men, exclusively of your appointment, must be to interfere in my pretensions, at the same time that I shall shew the hopes which governed your demeanor, in professing their authority. Permit me to inform you, that your case will seem more loathsome, if it rest on the erroneous fiat which your misstatement then begot; and that you infamously abused the confidence of generous credulity, inciting the effect of your delusive practice, as the exculpation of your conduct.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"J. Easter.

"To John Mytton, Esq."

Seventh Letter to John Mytton, Esq.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
20th May, 1323.

"Sir,

"I must give you credit for understanding the nature of a compact. Though I should be puzzled to discover any case, in which you

manifested your comprehension of it, by the observance of its conditions. You are sensible, that more than one party is essential to a covenant, and must, in consequence, perceive, that your appointment of your regiment to consider any right of mine, was suited only to the injustice and absurdity of your especial character. I must observe that you availed yourself of every general, indefinite expression, that I used regarding my respectful opinion of your regiment, to give, by your constructive ingenuity, an evidence of acquiescence on my behalf, to their adjudication on the subject of your debt to me. However speciously this shallow artifice may operate on hasty reasoners, reflect, and you will find that the conclusion you attempt to draw from it, is utterly irrational and false. You saw the error at the moment, but you sheltered all your baseness under it, and cunningly forebore to agitate a question, seemingly at rest, by any argument adduced distinctly by yourself. It was a glorious incident for one so subtle as you are, that the abused belief of honorable men, of soldiers of distinction, had led them to absolve you from the honest obligation of transactions,

which your artifice disfigured and encumbered with the hideous traits of your inventive genius. Had *I* been heard, how different had been the issue of your application! Had they supposed you then, what now the world acknowledges you are, what portion of their affiance think you, would have graced the hypocritical simplicity of your sophisticated, wary, statement. But no; it was sufficient for your worthy purpose to arrest, if possible, the progress of discussion, by avowals so conclusive at the onset, that the moral feelings might be shocked from any lengthened scrutiny: and your asseverations, be it known to you, were by their flagitious strength, so irresistibly directed to the suffocation of the living facts, that nothing, but their deeming you the most unblushing, barefaced liar that the universe contained, could then have raised a doubt of your veracity, or have prescribed to them the need of putting your assertions to the test, by catechitical enquiries from myself. Thus you see, and so the world shall see, you gained a point in limine, which sheltered you awhile, and gave you opportunity to juggle every friend, that deigned a

hearing to your exculpation, by the sentimental apparatus of your licenced humbug. This was the advantage you so highly prized, and which indeed so copiously availed you. What then shall be thought of you, who first begot a verdict from a court of your EXCLUSIVE NOMINATION on a STATEMENT of your OWN ARRANGEMENT AND DELIVERY? What must be thought of the folly, that could possibly devise a method of inquiry so absurd in all its bearings, if the DISCOVERY OF TRUTH were deemed an object needful to its functions? And what must be the spirit of that man, who after the exposure of the fallacy of such reputable men, would strive to consecrate mistake, that he might shield his avarice? Who under accusations that arraign him, as a man, a soldier, and a gentleman, can find no better plea for his persistence, than the error that availed him once to baffle honest applications, and which he now assumes to justify his stubborn perseverance in the path of shame, prevarication, and dishonor.

"I am, sir, yours, &c.

"J. EASTER.

"To John Mytton, Esq."

Eighth Letter to John Mytton, Esq.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
30th May, 1823.

"Sir,

"As I foresaw the Chester races would acquire the honor of your personal attention, I forebore to intrude on the pleasure of your week, by the continuation of my business; a suspension to which you must allow, in candor, that your acknowledgments are due, unless your studious devotion to Pythagorean doctrine, excludes from your consideration the uncongenial merits of Lord Chesterfield. In adverting to the BOOK, I am not unwilling to suppose the politeness of your researches in the closet, which, like many of the lucubrations of the studious, are never publicly developed, but held as maxims sacred to seclusion, to adorn a theory, which its sublime inventor leaves to the unlettered for experiment and practice. I shall therefore stand absolved from incredulity and rudeness, if I ascribe to the decency of your retirement

the superficial elegance of manners, and the forms of accredited decorum, which a genius of contemplation may fastidiously conceive but frivolous incumbrances to the spiritual excellences of a chastened understanding. It gives me pleasure to remark, that if consistency be next a kin to virtue, no doubt can be held of your adjacency to merit. The steady progress of your life, the expanding power of your reflexions, and the gradual disclosures of your experience, seem so thoroughly to overrule the moral mawkishness you felt, (on former points for former purposes) at play, that now you can engage without alarm the evening pleasures of a RACE WEEK, and conclude a Vesper sacrifice to Bacchus, by transferring with a readiness that honors your determination, your devotion to the nightly shrine of a more fickle deity. I should maintain an incorrect opinion of the instructive rod of Dr. Butler, if I deemed it needful to apologize to a disciple of the classic hill whereon your promising endowments first evolved, for wandering in darkness in the figures of metonomy, which previous taste, and culture of immediate recency must render plea-

sant and acceptable to you, from one as artless and unlearned as even I am. To return however, to my subject; I am also told, that you have still some irritable feelings on the point of loss, and that the wholesome dispensations of the power, you continue to adore, are wreaked with most magnanimous philosophy on all the trembling retinue, that minister within the penetralia of the gaming fane. I learn with some degree of satisfaction, that your losses are the subject—not of cogitation, but of clamor! and that the same indocile spirit, which in former times, was so irregular from youth, has grown thus turbulent and boisterous, no doubt by parity of inference, from age. Peaceful as my determinations are, and ever must be with respect to you, I furthermore rejoice to find that your PUGNACIOUS QUALITIES have signalized your efforts, on this memorable instance. Pardon these expressions of respect. It is admissible to modesty to view with admiration the imposing qualities, it neither envies nor attempts to gain. I hardly can review the means and parties you have introduced into your line of operations, without adverting to the humble treasures of

my memory, wherein I find in that immortal passage of the Etonian Grammar, a congregaion of the various persons whom you delicately mean to implicate in the perversity of your injustice.

"Conjux atque, parens, infans, patruelis, et hostis
"Affinis, vindex, judex, dux, miles et hæres,
"Augur, et antistes, vates, conviva, sacerdos,
"Municipi què addas adolescens, civis, et autor
"Custos, nemo, comes, testis."

"If there appear a lack of matter in my present letter, it will shew at least that I am no indifferent observer of your progress, and if I have deferred to your amusement now, my next communication shall discharge the sober duty I profess to execute: at the same time that it will manifest, and not inappositely, that I have alternately paid homage to the frivolous absurdity and sturdy evil which compose the beauty of your tessellated character.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"J. EASTER.

"To John Mytton, Esq."

Ninth letter to John Mytton, Esq.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
16th June, 1823.

"Sir,

"When I addressed you last, I stated I should soon solicit your attention to more serious matter than the subject of my last epistle. I should immediately have kept my word, but having learned the violent determination of certain of your friends respecting some one whom they took for mine, I paused to see the issue. Sufficient time has passed, but I learn nothing. Rely on it, no friend of mine can hear that any zealous partizans of yours have preconcerted plans of insult, without enjoying, notwithstanding, the calmest earnest of contemptuous ease; for I trust they will believe such schemes of airy insolence are never the productions of deliberate and stedfast courage, but infinitely more resemble the witless desperation of undisciplined ferocity, or the sublimations of a spirit naturally mean and fearful.

"It will behove such generous supporters of your cause or case, to ascertain for what they venture the inestimable weight of their respectability: it will behove them to consider if their character for morals or intelligence would aid or prejudice a questionable cause, and to ask themselves, if their attempt to sanction, would not doubly and conclusively condemn a cause so, worthlessly, and stubbornly, and craftily, and meanly pleaded, as your own; and let them ponder, in the bombastic grandeur of their menaces, before they implicate themselves in disagreement with individuals of discretion, who would perhaps refer their ignorant brutality for punishment to such tribunals as will "task the flesh," though they cannot illuminate "the gross and the opacous spirit."

"You will remember that with you my disputations are distinctly and expressly CIVIL; you may be furthermore assured, that till my CLAIM on you is satisfied, I shall preserve myself most studiously from every implication with any fool or hireling, whom want, or ignorance, or folly may subject to your disposal: if I am proscribed for secret vengeance, I must

take my chance, but let the blow come when it may, I shall exert myself in my defence; with reference to open violence, I am ready to repel aggression from a ruffian, and I trust, my temper being moderate, will always be sufficiently collected to disperse the "mountain magnitudes" of even an experienced bully.

Whatever wrathful visitations your abettors may design for other heads, they are nought to me; I only hope arrangements made with such respect to honor and decorum will be put into effect, with all the spirit and adroitness they deserve. I can almost take upon myself to say, that if any friends of mine should be the honored objects of the wrath of your's, (I allude exclusively to those who volunteered the service of their insult to the suspected person in the North) they will receive the offering, with every correspondent mark of gratitude and sensibility; and doubtless I may add, they will discharge the debt of courtesy with more alacrity and readiness by far, than you would manifest on obligations of a graver character. Shortly you will hear from me further. In the mean time, let me recommend your silence to the imitation

of your zealous friends, and at the same time that you propose yourself to them as a model in that instance, let them consider you as a beacon in another, and learn, ere it be too late, that no man is so ridiculous as he, who voluntarily intrudes himself on duties beyond the compass of his action: I could wish to be a monitor, but it is equally beyond my power to convey, as it is beyond your's, to receive INSTRUCTION. Yet I have charity enough to drop a caution to your friends, that they may eschew the penalty of an offence, which could he injurious to me, and my friends, only from the association of their names with those of the oracular and doughty gentlemen, whom I rejoice to find in the array against me, on this particular occasion.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"J. EASTER.

"To John Mytton, Esq."

Tenth Letter to John Mytton, Esq.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho,*
24th June, 1823.

"Sir,

"In the course of my remarks, I cannot pass by your undated letter received by me in London on the 10th of November, in the year 1817. You therein very flippantly assert your intention to "abide by the determination of the Officers of the 7th, to which you had the honor of belonging." You perhaps did not remember, at the moment of this conclusive reasoning, that the cause of my returning you the acknowledgment, with which you had supplied me, had never been correctly stated to the regiment. This fact is on the reputable word of Major Verner:[3] and I am positive that if you had the mean duplicity to sink the reason of my rendering you a document, which might have drawn on you the censure of your superior, and the discountenance of your brother, officers; if you were sufficiently ungrateful to obscure the

feeling which prevailed on me; you were shrewd enough to substitute a cause most diametrically opposite, and to convert the folly of my misplaced kindness into a constructive evidence of that imputed culpability, which you have vainly endeavoured, by mean insinuations, but which you never dared, by overt accusation, to fix upon my conduct. You did not state with frankness to your brother officers that I indignantly rejected Mr. Wheatley's over courteous proposition of addressing you a letter of release from honorable obligations, because, forsooth, the idle babbling of loquacious gossips had upraised some story of superlative hyperbole. You did not state with frankness to your brother officers, that I rejected every method projected by your friend, that could appear to give importance to the groundless rumours to which Mr. Wheatley was desirous to ascribe the cause of my returning your acknowledgment. You had not the candor to inform your brother officers, that at the same time that I spurned the cunning efforts of report to invalidate my claim on you, I yielded to the apprehension of your being incommoded

by the obligations, which you had admitted in your own hand writing. At the same time that I despised the impotent malignity of rumor, I respected the delicate dilemma to which our transactions might subject you; I then, and from that consideration only, restored to you the paper you had given me; it was an act of confidence on my part, and you pledged your honor to requite it: your method of redeeming it, I need not add, is marked with all the calculating tardiness of one, who doubts the value of the thing impawned. Should I admit, for sake of argument, the competency of your brother officers to give a sentence on a claim of mine; I should remark, that on my latest application to Sir Edward Kerrison, their sentence was continued by adherence to their first opinion, not confirmed by RE-CONSIDERATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES, or by an attentive scrutiny of your imperfect, partial, and original mis-shapen statement. This assiduous duty is required from all tribunals; then was it not due to me from that, had I acknowledged its sufficiency? Or is it a maxim of your sage adoption that the prompt opinions of military

men alone are free from fallibility? But after all, to what conclusion has the judicatory, of your own election, come? It has pronounced its apprehension of the terms employed by me in AN EPISTLE MOST EXPRESSLY WRITTEN TO PROTECT YOU FROM A MILITARY INQUEST ON YOUR GAMING. Doubtless such was the intention of that letter; it was meant to serve a purpose satisfactory to them. I know no law of England could compel you to discharge the debt acknowledged on the document I held, and afterwards restored to you; but if propounded to a regiment of hussars, in any service, of Great Britain, or of France, or Germany, a question, if your solemn word of honor to discharge, on your accession to your fortune, a debt incurred by you at play should be binding, though the written proof of such debt, for previous purposes of your advantage, were restored to you, to what determination think you they would come? Had I agreed to the decision of a military body on a claim, TO ME OF SUCH IMPORTANCE, I should have displayed a fair extended whole, no prejudicial, no prepossessing portion of the facts: you will perhaps advance

an intimation, which I made in writing to Sir Edward Kerrison, it says, 'I shall have no objection to the honorable decision of such a distinguished body.' Had Sir Edward Kerrison informed me in reply that he, and the officers of the 7th regiment of hussars, designed to task themselves with such a duty, I should have approached them with all the confidence and the respect that every man must own for any judicature of his joint admission. I never could imply that I submitted my pretensions to the test of an EX PARTE SHEWING; nor could such a supposition enter the mind of any man acquainted with the common forms and privileges of judicial dispensation. In offering to refer the merits of the case to such a club as Graham's, which I did, I should think that every man of common understanding must admit, that I was willing to submit it to the most impartial, to the most extensive, the most competent consideration. Your reasons were on this, as I have cause to think they are on every other point, directed by a mingled sense of selfishness and apprehension. These have conspired to regulate your conduct, but as they

cannot tend to obscure my perceptions of propriety, and right, I shall very steadily pursue the objects I have proposed to myself, being thoroughly assured that public sentiment will neither partake of the affected error of your judgment, nor sanction, by its approbation, the perversity of your injustice.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"J. EASTER.

"To John Mytton, Esq."

Eleventh Letter to John Mytton, Esq.

"*Walker's Hotel, Dean Street, Soho, 7th July*, 1823.

"Sir,

"For the purpose of demonstrating how very rational and susceptible a gentleman you are, I take the trouble of transcribing your 'epistle vehement' of some years standing.

'*Halston, Feb.* 26, 1818.

'Sir,

'I found your letter upon my return from Shrewsbury last night: as you tell me I am

not a gentleman or a man of honor, I must desire you will inform me when and where you will give me the satisfaction it would be unbecoming in me not to demand for such unwarrantable expressions.

'I have the honor to be, sir,

'Your obedient humble servant,

'JOHN MYTTON,

'To J. Easter, Esq. 'Late 7th Hussars.'

"Was it possible when you appealed thus forcibly to 'cold iron,' that you forgot the folly I must have committed in firing at a security, which even now I think not worthless, though unworthy. So much for the REASON of your chivalrous solicitation. I hardly can suppose you thought me fool enough to acquiesce in any such unqualified and wild cartel.

"You appear an admirable specimen of what is called fine feeling. I told you in my letter, which provoked the one from you transcribed above, that 'if you have any pretensions to the character of a gentleman and a man of honor, you will pay, &c.' Briefly and simply and intelligibly, I tell you there—after years of patience

—after months of correspondence—that if you fail to deal with me justly and honorably, as you had promised OF yourself, and BY your friend, that I shall offer such remarks on your veracity and honor as the tenor of your conduct rigidly deserves. I also take the liberty of telling you the truth, that if you have pretensions to the character of a gentleman and a man of honor, you will redeem a solemn pledge of your veracity and discharge an honorable debt. No man in the kingdom could object, as I should think, to such a proposition; remembering, that you had given me reason to suspect your purpose. When I addressed you, you had by evasion and by every insufficient plea, attempted to resist the claim which I irrefutably urged on you. 'If,' therefore, 'if' (I felt obliged to use that word) you were in spirit—not merely in letter—a gentleman and man of honor, I wrote that you would pay me, what you knew was due to me. But you were too susceptible to let SUSPICIONS operate on OUGHT, though you afforded PROOF of ALL that called for satisfaction, which, to use your own ungarbled language, 'it would be unbecoming in YOU not to demand for such

unwarrantable expressions :" so much for your SENSIBILITY. Had you first been just, then generous, my letter of the 2nd of March, 1818, assures you that I should have willingly availed myself of any field amusement, to which I might have been solicited by your obliging invitation. But until my claim was settled, I was not desirous of submitting to the logic of your weapons, any more than I deferred to your ideas of a judicial institution. I was already frightened by the efforts of your rhetoric; I found it quite the eloquence Quintilian mentions. 'Quæ pœnis eripiat scelestos; cujus fraude damnentur interim boni; consilia ducantur in pejus; cujus denique tum maxime sit usus, cum pro falsis contra veritatem valet.' Pardon the presumption of this learned offering. These communications between yourself and me, will be suspended for a season. What letters I have addressed to you, I shall forthwith submit to the opinion of the public. I shall prefix to them a clear but brief review of our transactions from the moment of my meeting you until the present time. A copy will be sent to you one week precisely

previous to the publication of a statement, and the letters I have written to you. You will act as you think fit. Allow me to suggest to you the danger of confiding in a callous or conceited monitor: you may be younger than your advisers, yet more prudent in your counsel: confer with men of an unsullied reputation, and when you and your controller estimate the merits of an adversary, remember that a man extensively acquainted with knavery himself will rarely impute honesty or virtue to the actions of another.

"I am, sir, &c. &c.

"J. Easter.

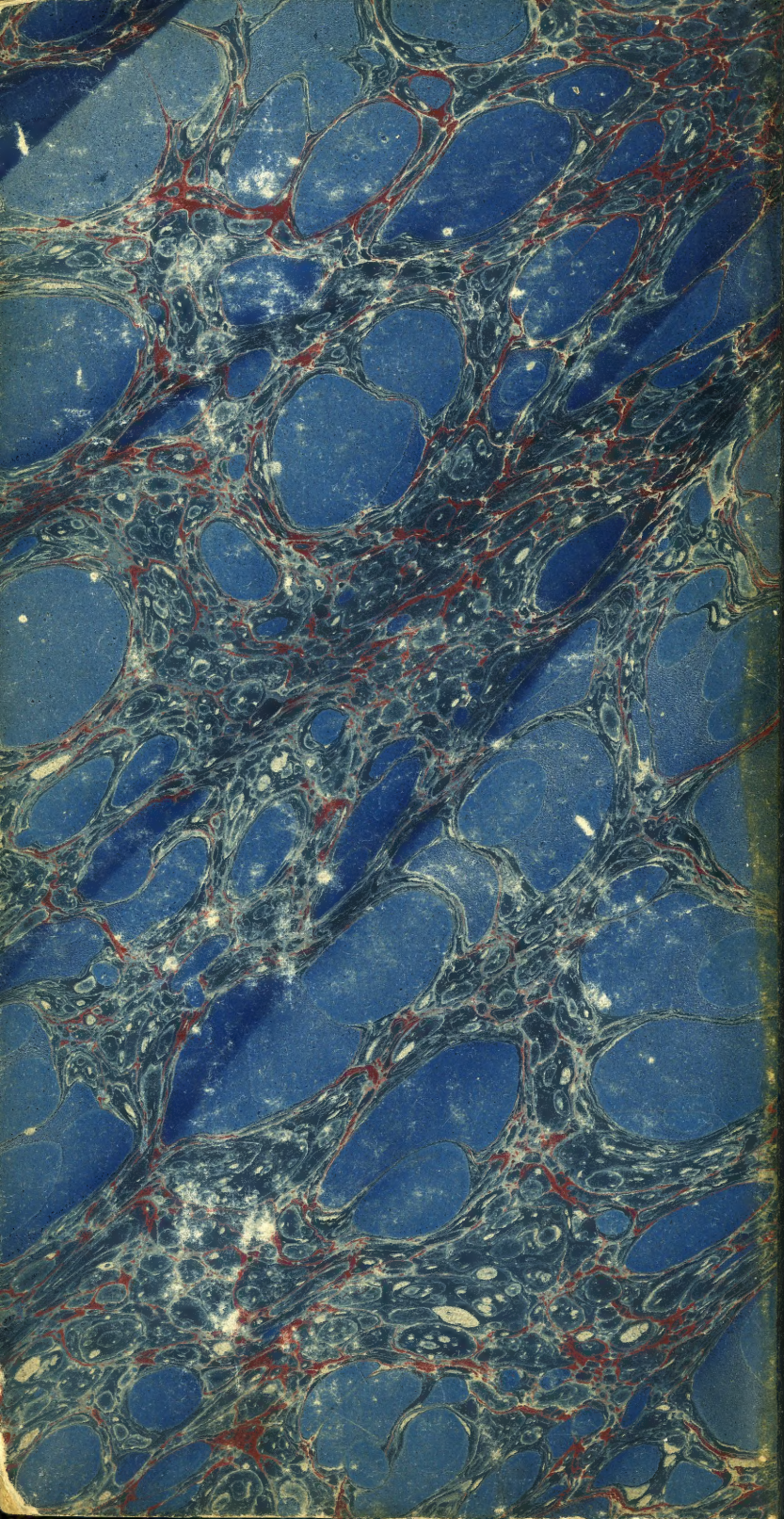
"To John Mytton, Esq."

NOTES.

(1.) The bet, on this occasion, offered by Mr. Mytton, was 30,000 to 10,000 Napoleons. Had I accepted it I should have won it.

(2.) At the last Chester races it appeared to two particular friends of Mr. Mytton, that some gentleman from London had travelled to the North expressly for the purpose of observing Mr. Mytton's conduct; what end to answer was a point of supposition with those zealous augurs. Had it been established that "the suspected person in the North" was any friend of mine, I learned that he was doomed to meet much contumely and (as the odds appeared to hint) some chastisement.

(3.) When I requested Major Verner of the 7th Hussars to read the statement I had framed of my play transactions with Mr. Mytton, he expressed his astonishment that a portion of the facts detailed in my account had been suppressed by Mr. Mytton, when he affected to explain and to appeal to his military brethen—and moreover, Major Vernor was surprised to find, that Mr. Mytton had thoroughly misrepresented the occasion of his losses, the games at which he had incurred them and the circumstances, under which those games were played—

Here was a specimen of Mr. Mytton's artless candour—
Ingenui vultus puer, ingenui que pudoris !!!

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